tain sections of the media about the spread of HIV infection among teenagers in Tamil Nadu".

(b) The Government of India has launched a centrally sponsored scheme, with assistance from the World Bank and W.H.O. for the prevention and control of a AIDS in the country. The accent is on prevention as AIDS has no cure as of now. The programme components consist of strengthening management, increasing the level of awareness in community and individuals, increasing safety of blood and blood products, augmenting STD Control Programme and improving clinical management and surveillance. A scheme for creating awareness about AIDS amongst University students has been drawn by the Department of Youth Affairs.

Alarming AIDS cases in rural belt of Western Maharashtra

1429. DR. BAPU KALDATE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the rural belt of Western Maharashtra is virtually sitting on a AIDS bomb with over 75 per cent of the last series of tests showing HIV positive;

(b) whether it is a fact that certain projects taken up by Government of Maharashtra are jointly funded by the State Government and the ICMR;

(c) if so, what are their respective obligations in respect of the joint projects; and

(d) what is the nature and quantum of central assistance given proposed to be given to the State Government of Maharashtra to meet alarming AIDS situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) The Govt. is aware of increasing trends of HIV infection in Western Maharashtra. However, no specific survey was conducted in that area. Therefore, it would not be correct to say that over 75% HIV positive infected persons are from Western Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. Govt. of Maharashtra and ICMR have taken up rehabilitation project at Sangli district for HIV positive commercial sex workers. For the said project, ICMR has given one time grant of Rs. 5.64 lakhs towards addition and alteration in the existing building for rehabilitation purposes. ICMR has also promised to provide financial assistance @ Rs. 1,500/- per month per head limited to 25 commercial sex workers only under this project. Commitment on the part of State Govt. is under consideration.

(d) Govt. of India will provide grant for the prevention and control of AIDS activities in the State at 100% reimbursement basis. A sanction of Rs. 90.665 lakhs for various activities for the year 1992-93 has already been conveyed. In addition, the Govt. of India is also providing assistance in the form of equipments and HIV Kits.

Sale of Irradiated Food Items in the Country

1430. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have frawed rules to enable sale of irradiated food items in the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D. K. THARA DEVI SIDDHARTHA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have published draft rules on food irradiation for inviting public comments.

The draft rules provide details with respect to lists of items to be irradiated, process of irradiation, licensing and labelling of irradiated food.

Guidelines by the Councils in opening of new Colleges

1431. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any guidelines prescribed by the concerned councils in